<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-9 are pending with claims 4-9 added by this paper.

Drawing Objections

Attached are new drawings obviating the objections raised by the Action and

draftsperson. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that these objections should be

withdrawn.

Specification Objections

Amendments have been made to the specification to substantively comply with the

objections raised in the Action. In addition, other amendments have been made to correct

typographical errors. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that these amendments

should obviate the objections.

Claim Objections and Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Amendments have been made to obviate the objections and rejections. Consequently,

applicants respectfully submit that these objections and rejections should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope

of the claims.

In addition, the Action questioned whether the chloride ions are derived from the

hydrochloric acid. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art

reviewing the specification would understand that at least some of the chloride ions would be

derived from, e.g., the hydrochloric acid. See, e.g., pages 12 and 20 of the present

specification.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully/submitted,

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Date: February 9, 2004

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